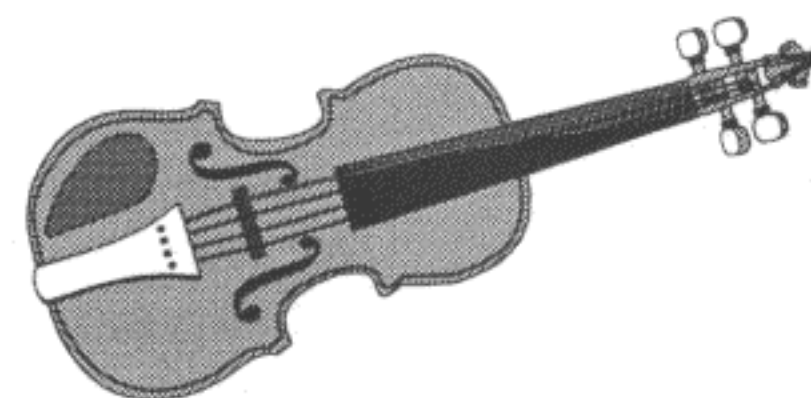


## STROLLING STRINGS



The Strolling Strings had an energetic start to the new year. During the month of January, the group performed for several government functions. On two occasions, The Strings helped to support the mission of Secretary of Defense William Cohen, performing for his counterparts from Poland and Hungary. On January 23, the town of Midlothian, Va. hosted The Strings, as they met with local music students in the afternoon for a demonstration and clinic, followed that evening by a public concert of combined string orchestra and strolling music. Another opportunity for members of The Strolling Strings to work with young people came on January 28. A small group of musicians went to Landover, Md. to give a presentation as a part of The USAF Band's Education Outreach program.

The Strings ended January and began February with a trip to Patrick Air Force Base in Florida. After enthusiastic receptions at functions for the Air Force base, the group was given a standing ovation by a capacity crowd in the city of Melbourne. The public concert featuring string orchestra and strolling repertoire. Though the skies were overcast, the music did shine and was warmly welcomed. During our stay in Florida we were treated to a unique tour of Cape Canaveral by the superintendent of the squadron and a former vice commander of the base. Some members of the group were given the opportunity to touch 'Stardust', a satellite that was launched to collect comet particles during the next ten years. Washington, D.C. audiences had several opportunities to hear The Strings in performance during the February Guest Artist Series concerts at DAR Constitution Hall. As the series continues in March, The Strings will continue to share the stage with some of our country's greatest talent.

The month of April will be filled with trips to Scott Air Force Base in Illinois and Langley Air Force Base in Virginia, as well as with the preparation and recording of a new compact disc. We look forward to seeing our friends at our performances!

—TSgt Erin Eyles



## SILVER WINGS



Greetings, friends of Silver Wings! We enjoyed seeing so many of you at the February 21 Guest Artist Series Concert at DAR Constitution Hall. Performing on the same bill as country music legend Janie Fricke was quite a thrill!

The Barnstormers performed their annual "Valentine's Day Tour" for veterans. The "tour" is from room to room at the Veterans' Administration Hospital in Baltimore, and this year we also performed at the Washington, D.C. VA Hospital. We play a couple of tunes in each room, try our best to honor requests, and visit with the patients. Needless to say, this is an immensely rewarding experience.

March and April are busy months for Silver Wings and Barnstormers. We're performing extensively for the military community, playing for dinner/dances, graduation and award banquets, and special shows for foreign dignitaries.

Congratulations to TSgt Chris Kosky who was selected for promotion, and is currently attending, the Non-commissioned Officer Academy. The NCO Academy is a 6-week course of study, which focuses on honing communication and leadership skills. The in-residence program is held at McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey.